

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 03139 071120Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 071017Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4191

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3139

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD; USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, PINR (ONHON, CANDEMIR)

SUBJECT: COVERSATION WITH NEW TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON: CHANGE
OF FORM AND PERHAPS OF SUBSTANCE

1. TURKEY'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS (TECHNICALLY CHARGE D'AF-
FAIRES, AS THE TURKS HAVE REFUSED TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO
MAKARIOS SINCE 1964) ARRIVED IN CYPRUS ON SEPT 28. I CALLED ON
HIM OCT 4. ONHON AND I SERVED TOGETHER IN CYPRUS DURING HIS
TOUR AS COUNSELOR IN 1968-1969, AND WE HAVE REMAINED CLOSE FRIENDS.
OUR FIRST CONVERSATION SINCE HIS RETURN TOOK PLACE AGAINST THIS
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 03139 071120Z

BACKGROUND.

2. ONHON NOTED THAT THE REASON FOR HIS ASSIGNMENT WAS HIS SERVICE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS AS AIDE TO PRESIDENT KORUTURK. WHILE ALL TOO AWARE OF THE PITFALLS AND UNUSUAL DIMENSION OF THE JOB IN CYPRUS, ONHON FELT THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL WISH AMOUNTED TO AN ORDER THAT HE COULD NOT REFUSE. ALSO, TO BE GIVEN THE CAREER RANK OF AMBASSADOR AT THE AGE OF 42 WAS UNIQUE IN THE TURKISH DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

3. ONHON SPOKE CANDIDLY OF RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY AS BEING A SPECIAL PROBLEM FOR THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN NICOSIA. HE THOUGHT HIS APPOINTMENT BY AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK WOULD HELP HIM IN THIS REGARD. ALSO, HE ENJOYS PERSONAL RAPPORT WITH THE PRESENT MAINLAND COMMANDER, LT. GENERAL HASAN SAGLAM, WHO HAD BEEN HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER IN THE MILITARY WHEN HE HAD BEEN IN CHARGE OF GREEK AND CYPRUS AFFAIRS IN THE FONMIN IN ANKARA.

4. ONHON REFERRED TO MANAGERIAL CONTROL OVER THE VERY LARGE NUMBER OF MAINLAND CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATORS AND AID PERSONNEL AS ANOTHER POTENTIAL NIGHTMARE. HE SAID THAT IN THE FORMER CATEGORY ALONE HE HAD "100 PEOPLE IN NICOSIA AND 85 TO 87 IN THE FIELD". THE AID MISSION PRESENTLY HAD OFFICES LOCATED TWO KILOMETERS AWAY FROM HIS CHANCERY, MAKING THE NECESSARY DIRECT SUPERVISION DIFFICULT. ON HIS INSTRUCTION, THE DESIGN OF A NEW CHANCERY WILL BE ALTERED TO BRING THE AID MISSION UNDER THE SAME ROOF.

5. I REFERRED TO ANOTHER PROBLEM: RELATIONS WITH THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. I SAID THAT WHILE A TURKISH AMBASSADOR MIGHT NOT HEAR THEM, THERE WERE MANY COMPLAINTS IN THE TURKISH COMMUNITY ABOUT HIGHHANDEDNESS AND LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE MAINLAND REPRESENTATIVES, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. ALTHOUGH GRATEFUL FOR THE SECURITY THAT TURKISH INTERVENTION HAD BROUGHT THEM, MANY TURKISH CYPRIOTS HOPED THAT AN EARLY SOLUTION WOULD ENABLE THE BULK OF THE MAINLAND PRESENCE TO PACK UP AND GO HOME. THE MIXTURE OF MAINLAND AND TURKISH CYPRIOT OFTEN SEEMED TO PRODUCE FRICTION NOT FRIENDSHIP.

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 03139 071120Z

6. ONHON PARTIALLY AGREED, BUT SIAD SUCH FRICTION AS THERE WAS RESULTED FROM (A) THE ABSENCE OF ANY SYSTEM FOR INDOCTRINATING MAINLAND REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SPECIAL SENSITIVITIES AND CHARACTER OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS, AND (B) THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MAINLAND AND CYPRIOT PROCEDURES. TO REMEDY THE FORMER, ONHON SAID HE INTENDED TO INSTITUTE A SHORT BUT MANDATORY INDOCTRINATION COURSE FOR TURKISH OFFICIALS COMING TO CYPRUS. ON THE LATTER PROBLEM, HE FELT MAINLAND ADMINISTRATORS

MUSS STOP TRYING TO REMAKE "ANGLO-SAXON" TURKISH CYPRIOT SYSTEMS TO FIT A MIANLAND MOLD. COMMENT: IF ONHON IS ABLE TO CARRY THROUGH ON THIS, IT WOULD BE A SHARP DEPARTURE FROM HIS PREDECESSOR'S APPROACH FAVORING DELIBERATE TURKIFICATION. END COMMENT.

7. IN TERMS OF PUBLIC IMAGE, ONHON EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE TURKISH DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN CYPRUS HAD BEEN TOO CLOSED IN, TOO UNAVAILABLE. HE INTENDED TO BUILD ON WHAT HE HOPED WAS A GOOD REPUTATION FROM HIS PREVIOUS SERVICE IN CYPRUS TO DEVELOP BETTER RELATIONS WITH OTHER EMBASSIES AND THROUGH THEM WITH GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERS.

8. ON SUBSTANCE, WE SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH OF THE RESULTS OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT ELECTIONS. ONHON ALSO COMMENTED WITH CAUTIOUS FAVOR ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S UNGA CYPRUS PRINCIPLES.

9. COMMENT: WISELY, WE THINK, ONHON SEEMS DETERMINED TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OF THE TURKISH PRESENCE IN CYPRUS INSOFAR AS IT IS WITHIN HIS POWER TO DO SO. HE COMES TO THE TASK WITH GREAT ADVANTAGES. HE SEEMS FREE OF HIS PREDECESSOR'S XENOPHOBIC AND CHAUVINISTIC NEUROSES WHICH WERE ACCENTUATED BY THE WAR AND TURKEY'S ENSUING DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION. HE COMES ACROSS AS AMIABLE, OPEN, INTELLIGENT AND DETERMINED TO CONTROL THE TURKISH SHOW HERE. TO WHAT EXTENT HE WILL BE ABLE TO CONVERT FORM TO SUBSTANCE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
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